

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-12 were presented. Claims 1, 6 and 8 are amended. Claims 9-12 are canceled without prejudice. Thus, claims 1-8 are now pending.

Specification

The title is amended to "Printing Apparatus and Method of Displaying Explanations of Printing Apparatus" to better reflect the subject matter of the now pending claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 101

Claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 USC 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter and as not reciting a proper process claim. In response, claims 9-12 are canceled without prejudice, rendering the rejections moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 112

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. In particular, the Action asserts that the scope of the limitations "tentative option" and "determinate option" in claims 1, 6 and 8 is indefinite. In response, claims 1, 6 and 8 are amended to explicitly depict the tentative and determinate options. Claims 9-12 are also rejected under 35 USC 112, however, these rejections are moot since claims 9-12 have been canceled as discussed above.

Claim Rejections – Makino

Claims 1-4, 6 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Makino (US 5,388,251). Claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Makino and, alternatively, as obvious over Hastings (US 5,885,012).

The present invention is directed to a printing apparatus that displays explanations of functions and methods related to printing. A displayed screen presents a plurality of print options selectable by a user. For example, the flowchart of FIG. 6 shows a first hierarchy screen D20 displaying a list of printing options with one of the options K highlighted as a tentative option. Then, when a

help key is pressed, the help display D21 for the selected tentative option is shown. If a selection key is pressed for a tentative option in D22, then a determinate option is set and a second hierarchy display D23 is displayed. In this manner, the present invention provides a hierarchical structure that allows a user to easily and quickly view explanations of functions and printing methods without searching and even when a display is limited by a small screen (page 20, lines 17-27 and page 25, lines 21-27). For example, amended claim 1 recites:

...display means capable of option display in which a plurality of options related to printing are displayed on a display screen...

...tentative option designating means for designating at least one option out of the plurality of options displayed as a tentative option on the display screen, wherein the tentative option is related to printing...

Claims 6 and 8 recite contain similar recitations. Thus, independent claims 1, 6 and 8 recite display of a plurality of print options and designation of a tentative option from the options displayed. Makino does not operate in this manner.

Makino is directed to a device for forming a help message on a display when a help key is depressed. However, Makino fails to disclose or suggest a tentative option designated out of the plurality of options displayed on a display screen. A text input mode is switched to a function mode by selecting the function key. When a help key is depressed, the explanation corresponding to the function key is displayed. For example, when a text input mode is switched to a function mode by pressing a function key such as "Print", an explanation message is displayed after operating the help key 13 (col. 5, lines 54-65). There is no disclosure of a function designated out of a plurality of displayed printing options. Instead, the user in a text input mode hits a function key on keyboard 10 without choosing from a display of print options. The function keys and corresponding print options are not displayed or chosen from the display. Furthermore, Makino fails to disclose or

suggest applicant's hierarchic display structure. As shown in FIG. 4A, Makino merely discloses an explanation of a selected function key and does not display a determinate option.


Hastings is directed to a tape printing apparatus and does not remedy the deficiencies of Makino in this regard. Since Makino and Hastings fail to disclose or suggest each and every element of independent claims 1, 6 and 8, those claims and claims 2-5 and 7 dependent thereon are not anticipated or obvious over Makino and Hastings. The rejections under 35 USC 102 and 103 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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